Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] The barrel 28 defines first and second chambers 36 and 38 which are adapted to removably receive load bearing member 14 and rebound member 16 respectively therein. See Figure 3. Wall 40 defines first chamber 36 and the wall 40 is tapered or contoured inwardly as the wall extends in axial direction 50 from elliptical chamber mouth 42 at one chamber end to elliptical seat 44 at the opposite chamber end. The seat defines an opening 45 for communicating between the chambers 36 and 38. The seat 44 is directed inwardly from wall 40 substantially perpendicular to axis 50. Wall 46 defines chamber 38 and the wall 46 ~~38~~ is tapered or contoured inwardly as the wall extends in the axial direction 50 from elliptical mouth 48 to seat 44. As shown in Figure 3 the chambers 36 and 38 are in communication and the seat defines the common opening 45 between the first and second chambers. The radially inwardly tapered walls 40 and 46 provide means for producing the desired precompression in the resilient portions of respective members 14 and 16 when the members 14 and 16 are seated in respective chambers 36 and 38 and moved into axial abutment by coupling means 18. Such precompression will be described in greater detail hereinbelow.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The load bearing member 14 will now be specifically described. The load bearing member 14 comprises a rigid inner member 60 which may be made from any suitable material including, but not limited to steel, plastic or aluminum for example. The inner member 60 has an elliptical cross section that is variable axially along axis 51. In general, the cross sectional area for each elliptical cross section is variable along the direction defined by axis 51. When the member 14 is in use axis 51 is aligned with axis 50. As a result of the variable cross sectional area, the inner member includes an inwardly directed taper as the member 60 extends along axis 51 between the member free ends defined by surfaces 62 and 64. Support surface 62 is located at one of the free ends of inner member 60 and the support surface 62 is adapted to receive engine flange 22

thereon as shown in Figure 3. A contact portion or surface 64 is spaced axially from surface 62 and is located at the opposite free member end. Bore 66 extends along axis 51 and connects the surfaces 62 and 64. The bore is adapted to receive fastener 19 of coupling means 18. As shown in Figures 4A and 5A, a pair of opposed upwardly extending alignment members 68a and 68b are provided along support surface 62. The alignment members serve to guide the structural member 22 to the desired seating location on surface 62 to ensure the member 22 is properly centered and supported. Also, by properly centering the flange on surface 62, passing member 19 through the openings on the surface 62 and member 22 ~~(not shown)~~ is greatly simplified. Each alignment member 68a, 68b includes a taper directed inwardly towards axis 51 as the tapered surfaces extend from the free alignment member ends to the support surface 62.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Resilient member 70 is bonded to the inner member 60 using a conventional molding process well known to one skilled in the art, and such molding process may comprise a transfer, injection or compression molding operation or a combination of two or more methods, for example. The resilient member may be made from any material that provides the required stiffness and elasticity. For example, the resilient material may comprise a natural rubber having a durometer value of 40. The resilient member 70 includes an annular transition 72. As seated in chamber 36, the portion of member 14 between the transition and surface 62 is located outside of the chamber. See Figure 1. The resilient portion 70 has an inwardly directed taper between the transition and annular lip 74, with unbonded outer surface 100 radially inwardly tapered. The lip is substantially located in the plane defined by contact surface 64. As shown in Figure 3, the unbonded outer surface 100 of the tapered portion of the resilient member is located against chamber wall 40 and annular lip is located on seat 44 when the member 14 is removably located in chamber 36. A bulge cavity 76 is defined between the resilient member 70 and the end of the inner member 60 at surface 64. The bulge cavity is adapted to receive resilient material 70 that bulges as a result of axial compression and/or radial loading to the member 14. Such radial loading may more specifically be described as loading that is perpendicular to axis 50.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Rebound member 16 will now be described in further detail. The rebound member comprises a rigid inner member 80 made from a suitable material such as steel, plastic or aluminum for example, and the inner member comprises a contact surface 82 adapted to be in axial abutment with contact portion 64 of load bearing member 14 when the members 14 and 16 are located in their respective housing chambers 36 and 38. The inner member also comprises a support surface 84 spaced away from surface 82 along axis 53. The surfaces 82 and 84 are elliptical and are joined by a tapered body. The inner member body tapers inwardly along axis <u>53</u> from surface 84 to surface 82. In this way, the cross section of the member 80 is elliptical and is variable between the end surfaces along axis 53. Bore 86 connects the surfaces 82 and 84 and is adapted to receive a cap screw 21 or other means for coupling the members 14 and 16.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The rebound member comprises an outer resilient member 90 that is bonded to the inner member 80 using a conventional molding process such as a transfer molding, injection molding or compression molding operation, or a combination of two or more of such molding operations for example. The resilient member 90 substantially covers the inner member 80 and the resilient member includes an outwardly directed annular transition 92. The resilient member is tapered inwardly toward axis 53 between the transition 92 and contact surface 82 and this portion of the resilient member 90 is identified as 96 in Figure 7A<u>, with unbonded outer surface 101 radially inwardly tapered.</u> The resilient member 90 is also tapered inwardly toward axis 53 between transition 92 and support surface 84 and is identified as 98 in Figure 7A. For purposes of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, resilient member 90 may comprise a natural rubber having a durometer value of 30. In an alternate embodiment the stiffness and elasticity of the resilient members may be the same. Turning to Figure 3, when the member 16 is seated in chamber 38, the <u>unbonded outer surface 101 of</u> resilient portion 96 is seated against chamber wall 46 and resilient portion 98 is located outside of the chamber 38.

The respective contact portions 64 and 82 are in abutment when the members 14 and 16 are properly seated in the housing chambers and coupling means is located in the bores 66 and 86.